Growth Rate in Mining Sector

740. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mining sector recorded a negative growth rate of 3.4 per cent during 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check this slide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The mining sector recorded a negative growth of 1.0 percent during the period from April'98 to December'98 over the corresponding period of 1997.

(b) The negative growth rate was mainly observed in the production of Petroleum (crude) which has 39.8 percent weight in the mineral sector. The reasons for shortfall in crude oil production are: reduction in reserves of Heera Phase-II due to geological surprises; closure of high Gas Oil Ratio (GOR) wells; less production form Enhanced Oil Recovery Schemes in Gujarat due to delay in commissioning of plant for want of power and land; frequent power shutdown in the Eastern and Western Region.

In case of metallic minerals, negative growth rate of 2.7 percent was also observed due to fall in production of minerals such as bauxite, chromite, copper, gold, iron ore and manganese ore. The reasons for fall in production of different metallic minerals are operational constraints like break down in producing units for bauxite and gold, low demand for chromite, closure of copper mine at Mosabani and Mysore Champion Amalgamated gold mine, recession in iron and steel sector in case of iron ore, power problems in producing units for manganese ore etc.

(c) The steps taken to increase crude oil production are: better reservior management of the Bombay High oil fields through closure of high GOR and high water out wells; implementation of specialised technologies such as extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling, redistribution of water injection etc.; hiring of services of internationally reputed consultants; improving the recovery percentage from the producing fields; 3-D seismic surveys for better understanding of the oil field announcement of New Exploration Licencing Policy to encourage participation of private/joint venture companies in exploration activities.

Further, as regards the non-fuel mineral sector is concerned, the Government has taken a number of steps which include: opening up the mineral sector fully for private initiatives, both domestic and foreign; encouragement for induction of state-of-the-art technology; devolving more powers to the State Governments for renewal of Prospecting Licences and for first renewal of Mining Leases for expediting grant of mineral concessions; issue of guidelines for grant of prospecting licenses over large areas for aerial survey liberalisation of the policy for foreign investment with automatic approval of investment proposals with foreign equity upto 50% (Except for gold, silver, diamond and precious stones) and also case by case approval through Foreign Investment Promotion Board for foreign equity above 50% and for gold, silver, diamond and precious stones projects irrespective of foreign equity; rationalisation of the royalty rates of minerals making it comparable with international rates.

Losses in Steel Plants under SAIL

741. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various Steel Plants under the SAIL are suffering losses worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered by them during the current financial year till date alongwith the factors responsible for such losses; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fix the responsiblility and bring various plants of the SAIL out of red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The profit & loss of different plants under SAIL upto the third quarter of current financial year is as under:—

Plants	Profit/ Loss(—) (Rs/Crs)
Bhilai Steel Plant	457
Durgapur Steel Plant	—489
Rourkela Steel Plant	—591
Bokaro Steel Plant	—160
Alloy Steel Plant	—112
Salem Steel Plant	—138

The main reasons for decline in profit include sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in the domestic market resulting in decline in the net realization from sales in the domestic market. Export prices have also declined in the international market.

While the benefits of modernization would materialize in phases, SAIL had to absorb higher capital related cost (interest and depreciation) because of capitalization of modernization/capital schemes and also for maintaining a higher inventory level.

(c) SAIL is taking the following steps for improving the performance:

* Greater emphasis on cost control measures.
* Fresh investment proposals are virtually on hold except ongoing capital schemes and schemes relating to statutory requirement viz. safety, environment, etc.
* Introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees.
* Inprovement in techno-economic parameters.
* Increasing sales through aggressive and customers oriented marketing.
* Exploring new ways to bridge the resource gaps through business restructuring initiatives including closure of uneconomic units and hiving off of non-core assets.

Government also have taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry including SAIL and to overcome the present problems:—

(i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign.

(ii) To reduce input costs for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content 12%) non-coking coal (ash content 12%), metalurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (28") has recently been waived.

(iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukarine and Russia has recently been imposed.

(iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports has been carried out to boost exports.

(v) A Steel Exporters Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.

(vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of ECB norms has been strongly recommended.

(vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance the quality of Indian Steel.

इस्पात उत्पादन की लागत

742. श्री गोविन्दराम मिरीः क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या भारत में विभिन्न प्रकार के इस्पात की उत्पादन लागत अन्य देशों की तुलना में सर्वाधिक है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में इस्पात की औसत उत्पादन लागत कितनी है और यह औसत लागत विश्व की औसत उत्पादन लागत से कितना अधिक है;

(ग) क्या सरकारी और निजी इस्पात उत्पादक इस उत्पादन लागत को कम करने के लिए कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) उत्पादन लागत को किस हद तक कम किये जाने की संभावना है?

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) और (ख) इस्पात की उत्पादन लागत मुख्यतः लौह अयस्क, कोयला, इस्पात स्क्रैप और ऊर्जा जैसे आदानों के मूल्यों, भाड़े तथा श्रम लागत एवं वित्तीय प्रभारों पर निर्भर करती है। मार्च, 1997 में प्रकाशित वर्ल्ड स्टील डायनेमिक्स के नवीनतम अनुमानों के अनुसार, 1997 में सेल के बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र में विक्रेय इस्पात (शीत बेल्लित) की उत्पादन लागत अमरीका, जापान, जर्मनी, फ्रांस, दक्षिण कोरिया आदि जैसे अन्य शीर्ष राष्ट्रों में उत्पादित इस्पात की उत्पादन लागत की तुलना में कम थी। इसका ब्यौरा संलग्न विवरण में दिया गया है (नीचे देखिए)

(ग) से (ङ) जी हां। सरकारी और निजी इस्पात उत्पादकों ने उत्पादन लागत को कम करने के लिए उपाय किए हैं। उत्पादन लागत कम करने एवं निष्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सेल द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों में निम्नलिखित शामिल हैं:—

— अपने संयंत्रों का आधुनिकीकरण और प्रौद्योगिकीय उन्नयन।

— बाजार आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार गुणवत्ता, उत्पाद-मिश्र और उत्पादन बढ़ाना।

— प्रौद्योगिक-आर्थिक घटकों में सुधार करना जैसे कोकदर, ऊर्जा खपत मेटिलिक आदान में कमी, उत्पादन में वृद्धि आदि।

— प्रभावी रख-रखाव के जरिए उपकरणों की उपलब्धता में सुधार लाना।

— सख्त नियंत्रण और उत्पादन लागत में कमी।

सेल ने 1997-98 के दौरान विक्रेय इस्पात की नियंत्रणीय उत्पादन लागत को लगभग 7-8% तक कम करने की योजना बनायी थी।

विवरण

मार्च, 1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार विश्व लागत के उतार-चढ़ाव के संदर्भ में तुलनात्मक आंकड़े

(डालर प्रति टन)

मद	अमरीका	जापान	जर्मनी	फ्रांस	द० कोरिया	ब्राजील	सी०आई०एस०	सेल बी०एस०एल०
प्रमुख सामग्री/टन लदान कोकवर कोयला	32	34	39	38	38	50	36	61
लौह अयस्क/सिंटर/पैल्लेट्स	61	60	69	67	62	50	71	38
स्क्रैप (ऋण पूर्व)	48	45	46	46	51	48	28	42
I संपूर्ण कच्ची सामग्रियों की लागत	141	139	154	151	149	148	135	131
II अन्य सभी सामग्रियों की लागत	177	184	177	174	163	182	203	148